

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 7 March 1952

SUBJECT Rise in Commodity Prices, Tientsin

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCE COPY

DATE OF INFO. SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1

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1. In late 1951, commodity prices, especially foodstuffs, in Tientsin rose considerably. Number 81 flour sold last October for JMP 56,500 per sack, but by year's end the cost was JMP 79,500. Prices of other commodities showed an average increase of from 25 to 30 percent.
2. Charges for electric power have always been reckoned by the Tientsin Electric Power Administration on the basis of flour prices converted into JMP. Now, because of the rise in the flour price, a new readjustment of power charges was put into effect as of 1 January 1952. The rise immediately affected the output cost of all factories. As a result, the various factories, which are required by the government to reduce their costs, had no alternative but to delay payment of their electric bills. Consequently the Electric Power Administration found itself in difficulty. Salary payments were frequently overdue, morale was lowered and there were frequent interruptions in the power supply.

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